11: India G-4, 5 (1960-1961) 1962 AW11 Kerala AW11

be entrusted to Fishermen's Cooperatives. This can be done either on lease or on royalty basis. The Department should, however, provide the necessary technical guidance for exploitation work.

5.42 Effective exploitation of the reservoirs may present some problems on account of the depth of water and presence of obstructions at the bottom. In reservoirs still under construction or planned for the future, all the obstructions like tree stumps, boulders, etc., should be removed before the water is impounded.

GENERAL MEASURES

5.43 An increase in the output of fish or for that matter of any other commodity is not an end in itself. Adequate measures have to be taken to distribute these to the final consumers. A proper distribution system assumes a much greater importance in case of a perishable commodity like fish. The three important aspects of the distribution system viz., refrigeration, transport and marketing are discussed in what follows.

Refrigeration

5.44 The provision of adequate refrigeration facilities is important for the preservation and marketing of fish. The present production of ice in Kerala is about 100 tons. The bulk of this production is consumed in restaurants and other similar establishments ; the quantity available for the fishery industry is far from adequate. The State Fisheries Department has established four ice and cold storage plants, two of them having ice and cold storage equipment only, and the remaining two having freezing facilities as well. In addition to these, the State Fisheries Department has a freezing plant at Vizhinjom. The Indo-Norwegian Project also runs an ice plant, and the ice produced there is utilized for the marketing of fish undertaken by the Project as well as by the fishermen of the Project area. Nearly 814 tons of ice were produced at this plant in 1958-59. Two more ice plants, one each at Chowghat and Azhikode, with a capacity of 5 tons of ice per day and ice and storage capacity of about 40 tons, are expected to be established shortly.

5.45 The existing refrigeration facilities in Kerala will have to be expanded considerably during the Third and Fourth Plans. It will be desirable to set up ice and cold storage plants at all production centres, especially at the proposed Integrated Fisheries Development Centres, where the bulk of the sea fish will be landed. Important consumption centres like Kottayam, Trivandrum, etc., will also require these facilities. It is estimated that about 10 ice and cold storage plants will be required during the Third Plan and another 15 during the Fourth Plan. The total capital expenditure for the installation of these 25 ice and cold storage plants will be of the order of Rs. 75 lakhs of which about Rs. 30 lakhs will be in the Third Plan. It is worthwhile considering the grant of some subsidy to the prospective operators for the installation of such plants. Cooperative societies should also be encouraged to set up and operate these plants.